USACE CADD NEWSLETTER

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CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions to jean.a.mcginn@usace.army.mil.

Advanced InRoads Training Course Held

The Civil/Site Field Action Committee (FAC) hosted an Advanced InRoads Training Course 25-27 January in the Jacksonville District. A total of 25 students attended the course from districts through out the Corps of Engineers. Mike Cavanaugh from Intergraph Corporation taught the course on the newly released Version 8 of the InRoads Software. The course provided a working knowledge of the new complex features available and also demonstrated the advantages of the new streamlined workflows in the civil design software. It was a very beneficial course for all that attended because it gave us a head start on familiarizing ourselves with the improved tools in the new version of the program.   *By Deborah Solis, Jacksonville District*

Corps Knowledge Base on the Web

How can you find out who might be using a software program that you are considering procuring??? Is the Corps Knowledge Base on the Web the answer??? The Knowledge Base description says, "The Corps Knowledge Base for CADD software and system information is a database of information about the CADD systems within each district and division. The population of this database is accomplished by POC's at each office. This system was designed to assist Corps personnel in

establishing networks of experts to assist one another in solving problems related to Corps specific missions. Each person listed under a particular hardware or software can be assumed to be experienced in its use or operation. Please use this Knowledge Base to assist you in performing your work." Currently there is data from three districts in the database. Is information from your district posted?? If not, you need to take action to see that it is. A system like this is only as good as the data contained in the system. Do your part to make sure this Knowledge Base is a useful tool. Your CADD POC or Manager should contact **Mary Diel at Sacramento District, 916-557-6833,** to get a login and password as well as instructions for inputting your data into the system.

MicroStation Workspace Status

The final version of the MicroStation Workspace was completed and delivered to the Center 1 December 1999. Additional problems were discovered on review. Representatives from Bentley visited the Center on 1/13/2000 to discuss the problems. After an additional meeting held with the Center and Bentley at SAD in March, Bentley delivered version 1.3 of the Workspace 17 March. This corrected version was sent to selected Corps personnel to review, with comments due back to the Center 31 March. If there are no major problems discovered during the review, the Workspace will be posted on the Center Web Site on 3 April. Version 1.8 of the A/E/C Standards is currently posted on the Center web page (tsc.wes.army.mil) and includes Appendix E, which contains images of all the symbols in Release 1.8.

AutoCAD Workspace

The AutoCAD version of the AEC Workspace will be demonstrated at the the Center's CADD/GIS Technology Symposium and Exposition in St. Louis in May. Using the Center's Access database standards, the program will allow the CADD operator to select commonly used building terms (such as floor information, exterior wall, windows...) and the correct layer information will be set in AutoCAD. The program will function using Visual Basic as an interface and will send commands to AutoCAD using object oriented programming. A search engine will allow the operator to do searches of all line/layer property information or symbol information for a specific term. Searching for "control joint" will identify all Layer descriptions containing the word "control joint". The program will allow the operator to set up a group of commonly used Layers for quicker selection. A preliminary standards checker is in process as well. The Beta Version is
currently scheduled for release and testing early this summer. David Johnson, CEWES, is the POC for this effort. He can be reached at 601-634-3509. *By David Johnson, CADD/GIS Technology Center*

Spatial Data Standards Implementation Workshop

The next Spatial Data Standards (SDS) Implementation Workshop will be held on July 25-27, 2000 at The CADD/GIS Technology Center, Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Additional information is available under the "Classes" area of the Center's Internet Web Site tsc.wes.army.mil.

CADD/GIS Technology Symposium & Exposition 2000

The CADD/GIS Technology Symposium is only two months away. With over 100 exhibition booths highlighting the latest technology and achievements in CADD, GIS, facility management, remote sensing, hydrography, and mapping, this Symposium is guaranteed to surpass all others. The Symposium will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, May 23-25, 2000. It will be three years before the next Symposium. This is a great training opportunity. . The symposium agenda is now posted on the Center web site with a listing of all the technical sessions and workshops to be presented. The Corps of Engineers has received a waiver from Corps Conference Policy to allow up to 350 Corps personnel to attend this event. There will be a Corps of Engineers break-out session on Tuesday 23 May from 1300-1500 hrs. Registration for attendance can be made at the Center's web site. A block of rooms at government and non-government rates has been reserved at the Adam's Mark until April 21, 2000 under the name CADD/GIS/FM Symposium. The phone number of the hotel is (314) 241-7400. The Corps FAC and SAC Groups will meet on 26 May after the Symposium.

New SAC Chair

Larry Rogers, Chief of Engineering and Construction Division, Fort Worth District, was selected as the new chair of the Senior Advisory CADD (SAC) Group to succeed Dr. Edward Middleton, who was SAC chair in FY99, at the meeting of the group in December 1999. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the Corps CADD web site at ckb.wes.army.mil.

CADD/GIS Technology Center Discussion Forums

There continues to be a good deal of discussion on the AEC CADD Standards in the Center discussion forums. The Center has been responding well to questions raised. If you haven't signed up yet, you might take a few minutes to do so and see what others are saying. To sign up for a Forum, go to the Center Web Site at tsc.wes.army.mil; click on Forums on the left hand side of the page; select the Forum you want to comment on; and provide information requested. This is your forum; use it to share and get information.

CADD Details Library CD

Release 2.0 of the CADD Details Library has been completed. TheCD was shipped out to everyone in the Request database in mid-December. So far, the response to the CD has been very positive. If you have not received a copy and would like to order one, you can do so by contacting Steve Spangler at the Center.

CADD Library of Designs

The CAD Library is now able to post EBS disks for projects on its web site. There are currently eighty-eight projects posted, which were contributed by eight Corps Districts. There is also a comments link for submission of comments. The Library can be viewed at: http:\\cadlib.wes.army.mil. In order for the Library to be successful, it is essential that districts submit successful designs to the Tri-Service Center for inclusion in the library. Do you have a project which could help other districts get started on a similar design? Help your peers by submitting appropriate disks to Elias Arredondo at CEWES, The CADD/GIS Technology Center for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199.

HQUSACE Restructuring

Among significant changes to be made under the HQUSACE restructuring is the consolidation of Civil Works and Military Programs Engineering and Construction (E&C) Divisions under Civil Works. The new E&C Division will have four branches – Technical Policy, Water Resource, Technology Integration, and Infrastructure. Dwight Beranek, currently chief of Military Programs E&C Division and acting chief of Civil Works E&C Division, will be the chief of the new Civil Works E&C Division. Other position assignments and selection of branch chiefs have not been made at this time. The current schedule is for the new organization to be in place on 1 June 2000.

Call for Articles

All articles in this issue of the Newsletter, except for those where a byline is given, were written by Jean McGinn, CEMP-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of June.